Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following paragraph between the title and the first line of text as follows:

The invention claimed herein is the result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement between Hitachi Plant Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd. and Shin-Nakamura Chemical Co., Ltd. The joint research agreement was executed on May 31, 2000. A concise statement of the field of the invention claimed herein is microorganism-immobilized carriers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The basic skeleton of the hydrophilic prepolymer is as shown in Fig. 1. The prepolymer has at least one bonding group at the ends. To the bonding group, a hydrophilic group is bound. The bonding group binds to a prepolymer in the periphery thereof by a polymerization reaction to form a carrier. Specific examples of the bonding group include monoacrylates, monomethacrylates, diacrylates, dimethacrylates, monourethaneacrylates, diurethaneacrylates and prepolymers having a light-curing polymerization group. However, the bonding group is not particularly limited as long as it can polymerize by a radical reaction. As the hydrophilic group, there are ~~ethylenoxy,~~ ethyleneoxy, vinyl alcohol, and the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) show basic skeletons of prepolymers having a hydrophilic group and a hydrophobic group mixed therein. Each of the prepolymers has at least one bonding group at the ends. To the bonding group, a main chain consisting of a hydrophilic group and a hydrophobic group is bonded. The bonding group binds to a prepolymer around the bonding group by a polymerization reaction to form a carrier. Specific examples of the bonding group

include monoacrylates, monomethacrylates, diacrylates, dimethacrylates, monourethaneacrylates, diurethaneacrylates and prepolymers having a light-curing polymerization group. However, the bonding group is not particularly limited as long as it has a bonding group capable of polymerizing by a radical reaction. As the hydrophilic group, there are ~~ethylenoxy,~~ ethyleneoxy, vinyl alcohol, and the like. As the hydrophobic group, there are alkyl group, propyleneoxy, ~~buthyleneoxy~~ butyleneoxy and the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 7, a prepolymer contains a hydrophilic group and a hydrophobic group in a molecule. As the hydrophilic group, ethyleneoxy (n = 6) was used. As the hydrophobic group, propyleneoxy (m = 3) was used. More specifically, the ratio of the hydrophilic group to the hydrophobic group was 6:3. The main chain is formed of ~~ethylenoxy~~ ethyleneoxy and ~~proplyelenoxy.~~ propyleneoxy. To the ends of the main chain, an acrylate group serving as a bonding group was added. The prepolymer and microorganism was mixed and polymerized to form an inclusion-immobilized type microorganism-immobilized carrier having a large amount of the microorganism.